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**Yeovil Rural District Council.**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31st DECEMBER, 1952**



## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS**

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*Medical Officer of Health:*

P. P. FOX, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector:*

CHARLES A. WILSON, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors:*

BRYNMOR MORRIS,  
DOUGLAS N. SIBLEY.

*Assistant Housing Inspector:*

S. R. BARHAM.

*Assistant Housing Manager:*

Mrs. D. K. TROW.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF  
YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1952.

In general the health of the community was satisfactory there being no major epidemics of disease. There was an increase in the number of cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis notified, a considerable proportion of the cases occurring in the Stoke-under-Ham area. Fortunately, in the majority of cases, the disease was of a mild nature, the incidence of paralysis being low.

THE CORRECTED BIRTH RATE was 14.72 as compared with 15.00 for the previous year ; the provisional rate for England and Wales being 15.3.

THE CORRECTED DEATH RATE was 10.13 as compared with 10.48 for the previous year ; the provisional Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.3.

THE INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE was 27.19 which shows a reduction on the previous year of 36.44 ; the rate for England and Wales was 27.6.

#### HOUSING.

The number of houses completed by the Council during the year was 49 ; 22 houses were also completed by Private Enterprise, and in addition 19 buildings were converted into houses, making a total of 90.

The number of applicants for council houses shows a marked decline, but this is due to the fact that a check of the list was completed in December and 350 applicants were found to be no longer "live."

#### APPLICANTS ON THE WAITING LIST

	1952	1951
Sub-Tenants with children ... ..	113	209
Sub-Tenants with no children ... ..	97	177
Householders with children ... ..	193	286
Householders with no children ... ..	69	63
Tenants of huts with children ... ..	15	25
Tenants of huts with no children ... ..	3	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	490	766
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

As in previous years the various schemes relating to the health of school children have been carried out. The Mass Radiography examination of "leavers" attending the Stoke-under-Ham school is now established and the County Education Committee have authorised transport for this purpose. Reference is made later in the report to the rehabilitation of children who have had Anterior Poliomyelitis.

I wish to record my appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the Council and members of the staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. POWER FOX.

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	53,495 acres
Rateable Value (1st April, 1953)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£86,364
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate in the year ending 31st March, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	£338
Number of inhabited houses (1st April, 1953)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,957
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,050

## REGISTERED LIVE BIRTHS

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	317	156	161
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	14	8	6
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					331	164	167
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.76
Corrected Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.72

## STILL BIRTHS

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	9	6	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand Total	...	...	...	...	10	6	4
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	...	29.32

## DEATHS

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
					254	120	134
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.56
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.13



## MATERNAL DEATHS

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	2

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

All Infants	...	...	9	Rate per 1,000 live births	27.19
Legitimate Infants	...	...	8	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	25.23
Illegitimate Infants	...	...	1	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	71.4
Deaths from Heart Disease (all ages)	...	...	...	...	73
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	32
Deaths from Phthisis (all ages)	...	...	...	...	3

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures for the Yeovil Rural District was 331 live births; 164 were male and 167 were female.

Of these, 14 were illegitimate (8 males and 6 females). These figures are an increase on the previous year's (4 males and 3 females).

### BIRTH RATES

Yeovil Rural District	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
	16.8	18.6	18.3	20.8	21.71	17.3	19.9	14.6	13.89	13.76
Eng. & Wales 1951 R.D.	16.5	17.6	16.6	19.1	20.5	17.8	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3

### DEATHS

After correction for transferable deaths the net total assigned to the Yeovil R.D. was 254, viz. : 120 males and 134 females. The crude death rate was 10.56 as compared with 10.92 for the previous year. The corrected death rate was 10.13 as compared with 10.48 for the previous year.

There were 144 deaths occurring in persons over 70 years of age. The primary cause of death was heart disease (87) with cancer second (32).

The following table shows the causes of death and the sex distribution.

<i>Causes of Death</i>	1952	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ... ..	3	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	2	1
Malignant neoplasm stomach ... ..	2	5
Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus ... ..	4	1
Malignant neoplasm breast ... ..	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	9	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	—	2
Diabetes ... ..	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	14	23
Coronary disease angina ... ..	18	10
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	—	1
Other heart disease ... ..	17	27
Other circulatory disease ... ..	5	9
Pneumonia ... ..	5	5
Bronchitis ... ..	2	7
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	4	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	6	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	2
Congenital malformations... ..	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	17	22
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	4	—
All other accidents ... ..	5	4
Suicide ... ..	—	1
	120	134

The Crude Death Rate for the past ten years is as follows :—

1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
9.7	11.8	12.4	11.7	13.42	10.3	13.1	11.73	10.92	10.36

### CANCER

The number of deaths due to cancer (all forms) was 32. The table as set out below shows the incidence of cancer for previous years.

1935	1940	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
20	29	27	39	39	28	51	37	46	32



## CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION :

Year	1935	1940	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Yeovil Rural District	1.2	1.4	1.4	2.1	1.9	1.4	2.7	1.7	1.92	1.33
County of Somerset	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.07	1.9	1.9	1.896		1.98
England and Wales	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.946		1.99

## INFANT MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first 12 months of life was 9 as compared with 12 for the previous year. The rate per 1,000 of all live births was 27.19.

## CAUSES OF DEATH

Prematurity	...	...	...	...	3
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	2
Intracranial Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	1
Cardiac Failure	...	...	...	...	2
Asphyxia	...	...	...	...	1
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	9
					—

## AGE OF DEATH

Under 24 hours 3	Under 1 week 6	1 month or under 6	Under 1 year 9
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Number of Deaths ...	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
	9	12	7	14	8	6	11	10
Rate per 1,000 live births	27.1	36.44	22.8	37.4	24.7	37	34	29
For England and Wales	27.6	29.6	29.8	32	34	41	43	46

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were 2 maternal deaths during the year.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the details of infectious diseases notified during the year and also the figures for the previous year.

DISEASE	<i>Cases Notified</i>	
	1952	1951
Poliomyelitis ... ..	21	15
Scarlet Fever ... ..	70	7
Dysentery ... ..	1	1
Measles ... ..	2	605
Pneumonia ... ..	15	9
Erysipelas ... ..	2	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	67	133
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	1
Encephalitis ... ..	—	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	—	1
Meningococcal Septicaemia ... ..	1	1
Typhoid ... ..	1	—

## ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

The number of cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis notified was 21 as compared with 15 for the previous year. The majority of cases occurred in the Stoke-under-Ham area. As members of the Council are aware considerable muscle weakness and wasting may result from this disease but in general the incidence of paralysis and muscle weakness was low.

In the past few years there has been a very close liaison between the Orthopaedic Service and South Petherton Hospital, and all cases before they are discharged home, or transferred to an orthopaedic hospital, are examined by an orthopaedic surgeon. A follow-up service exists whereby all children are subsequently seen at the Orthopaedic Clinics held at Yeovil Hospital, and in 1951 this service was extended so as to include hydrotherapy exercises at the Yeovil Borough Swimming Bath. The service is now well established and during the year 61 children attended making a total number of attendances of 1,200.

The credit for this satisfactory state of affairs is mainly due to Yeovil Detachments of the British Red Cross who provide members each Saturday to encourage the children to exercise and swim. The County Orthopaedic Sister is present to supervise and advise regarding exercises for individual children.

## DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

The number of children under the age of five years who were immunised against Diphtheria, or Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, was 333. The number of children who received reinforcement doses was 192. The total number of children under the age of five years immunised against Diphtheria as at the 31st December, 1952, was 1,010. The number of school children between the ages of 5 and 14 years immunised was 2,248, making a total of 3,258. A Ministry of Health Circular dated March, 1953, drew attention to the fall in the incidence of Diphtheria in 1952, as compared with 1944. The figures are as follows :

Year	Deaths	Corrected Notifications
1944	934	23,199
1952	31	274

Emphasis is drawn to the necessity for maintaining a high level of immunisation and it is recommended that at least 75 per cent. of babies be immunised before their first birthday. Due to improved methods of preparing whooping cough vaccine the dangers that were reputed to be associated with whooping cough immunisation, especially in regard to Anterior Poliomyelitis, have been greatly minimised, and the value of the immunisation enhanced.

## VACCINATION

The number of children vaccinated or re-vaccinated during the year either by general practitioners or County Medical Service was 307 as compared with 392 for the previous year.

Under 1 year		1 to 4 years		5 to 14 years		15 years or over	
P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.
226	1	24	1	6	5	5	39

P: Primary Vaccination

R: Re-Vaccination

## ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

No Local Authority Ante-Natal Clinics are held in the area, Ante-Natal supervision being conducted by the General Practitioners and the District Nurse-Midwives. A number of expectant mothers do attend the Ante-Natal Clinic held in Yeovil and a considerable number of expectant mothers attend the Rh. Clinic which is held at Yeovil.



## INFANT WELFARE

Infant Welfare Centres are held at Martock, Stoke, South Petherton, West Coker, Wraxhill Road, Yeovil, Houndstone and Ilchester. The last two mentioned clinics have now completed their first full year. The following table gives details regarding attendances, etc.

	<i>Martock</i>	<i>Stoke-under-Ham</i>	<i>South Petherton</i>	<i>West Coker</i>	<i>Wraxhill Road</i>	<i>Houndstone</i>	<i>Ilchester</i>
No. of children who attended for the first time	35	30	53	17	19	66	114
No. of children who attended during the year	103	82	129	64	81	66	114
Total attendances of children during the year	537	516	625	363	319	195	435
Average attendance of children per session ...	22	22	26	30	27	16	36
Average attendance of mothers per session ...	21	19	31	24	23	12	33
Total No. of children examined by doctor ...	67	33	80	46	58	0	89
No. of sessions with medical officer ...	12	12	12	12	12	0	12
No. of sessions ...	12	11	12	—	—	12	0
No. of individual mothers who attended ...	91	62	114	49	68	56	103

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

### BIRTHS

<i>Live Births</i> ...	Legitimate 317	Illegitimate 14	Total 331
<i>Still Births</i> ...	Legitimate 9	Illegitimate 1	Total 10
INFANT DEATHS <i>Number</i> ...	Legitimate 8	Illegitimate 1	Total 9

### BLOOD EXAMINATION CLINIC

The number of expectant mothers who attended the Clinic at Yeovil was 504, a considerable proportion of the patients attending being resident in the Yeovil Rural District.

Apart from the immediate value of the information gained there is also a long term value. Copies of the results of tests are forwarded to the patient's doctor and also to the Yeovil Hospital so that in the event of an emergency, e.g. road accident, the patient's blood group, etc., is already known and valuable time may be saved.

## HOME HELP SERVICE

Following alterations to the Preston Road Clinic the office accommodation for the local organising staff has been moved to buildings adjacent to the Clinic which is more convenient for the public.

Number of cases who received help in 1952 :—

Type of Case				
Maternity	...	...	...	23
Old Age and Infirmary	...	...	...	14
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	4
Chronic Illness	...	...	...	7
Emergency Illness	...	...	...	12
Total				60

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act during the year.

The Yeovil Rural Council has taken a considerable interest in the application of this Act, and members may recall that in my Annual Report for the year 1948 certain criticisms and suggestions were made which in the main were incorporated in the National Assistance Amending Act, 1951.

I do not consider that the compulsory removal of aged people from their home to be the ideal solution. The particular Section of the Act authorising this procedure appears to me to protect the community against the individual, rather than the individual against the community, but in certain circumstances the application of Section 47 of this Act is the only course possible.

One of the characteristics of old people is their inability to adapt themselves readily, or willingly, to changed conditions and environment. As regards the Rural District, in the majority of cases it means the removal of a person from a small village where they know, and are known by the other inhabitants, to a suitable hospital where though they are physically well cared for they become one of a number of other inmates equally old and infirm, and neither party have the wish or the ability to make fresh friendships and contacts.

A further disadvantage is that beds which may be required for the urgent medical treatment of patients requiring hospital treatment are not available because they are occupied by people who have been admitted not because they are actually ill, but because they are aged and require some care, but not skilled nursing and medical treatment. The solution would appear to be to provide suitable conditions as far as possible in the areas where the aged lives so that they can continue to live there.



The Yeovil Rural District Council has built bungalows intended for this section of the community, but owing to the shortage of houses these bungalows have been deviated from their intended purpose, and it is suggested that the sooner the bungalows are restored to their intended use the sooner will this particular problem referred to be partly met.

An alternative method would be to encourage where possible the care of an aged person by their children or relatives, and I am of the opinion that considerable priority should be given to applicants for a council house who are willing to have living with them an aged parent or relative who is no longer able to look after him or herself.

### FOOD POISONING

One case of Typhoid, confirmed by the Laboratory, was notified during the year.

Examination of the immediate family contacts for carriers was negative and despite enquiries it was not possible to ascertain the source of infection.

### TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year was 19, non-pulmonary 8. There were 3 deaths recorded as due to tuberculosis, pulmonary.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0—1 ... ..								
1—5 ... ..			1	2				
5—15 ... ..		1		1				
15—25 ... ..		1		1				
25—35 ... ..	3	4	1	1				
35—45 ... ..		1		1				
45—55 ... ..	2							
55—65 ... ..	6	1			2			
65 and upwards					1			
Total ... ..	11	8	2	6	3			
Total New Cases : 27					Deaths : 3			
	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
No. of cases notified pulmonary ... ..	19	15	12	21	12	8	23	19
No. of cases notified non-pulmonary ... ..	8	4	1	2	4	5	3	3
No. of deaths pulmonary	3	1	2	6	6	—	3	9
No. of deaths non-pulmonary ... ..	—	1	1	2	1	—	1	1
Death rate of respiratory tuberculosis per 1,000 population ... ..	0.1	0.04	0.09	0.32	0.33	0.0	0.16	0.5

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

As in previous years the Mass Radiography Service visited Yeovil, a total of 4,191 individuals being examined. The figures do not relate entirely to the Yeovil Rural District as they include a considerable percentage of people resident in the Yeovil Borough.

The value of this service is becoming more appreciated each year. The total number of active pulmonary tuberculosis cases discovered was 9. The table below sets out the extent to which the service has been used in recent years and the value of the surveys.

No. of people examined		No. of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Diagnosed	
		Active	Inactive
1948 (Two visits)	4,260	9	32
1949	2,298	13	31
1950	2,316	4	41
1951	3,015	8	34
1952	4,191	9	37

As in previous years my thanks are due to the Organising Secretary, Mr. Coffey, for the co-operation I have received from him in arranging these visits.

## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

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#### 1.—WATER SUPPLIES

Comprehensive Scheme—Work was continued on the construction of the Impounding Reservoir and the Road Diversion works at Sutton Bingham, the  $\frac{3}{4}$ -million gallon Reservoir on Coker Hill, and the laying of the 18-inch and 15-inch pumping mains from Sutton Bingham to Odcombe. The 12-inch and 9-inch mains from Odcombe to Halfway, Chilthorne Domer and the 6-inch main from Ilchester to West Camel have been commenced.

#### 2.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Ilchester—The scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for Ilchester and Northover was completed during the year.

East and West Coker—The laying of sewers and the construction of sewage disposal works was continued.

Haselbury Plucknett—A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal commenced late in the year.

#### 3.—PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection is undertaken in all parishes and was extended during the year to a number of new housing estates, increasing the number of man-hours allocated to this service.

Complaints were received of the non-collection of refuse. These were mainly due to mechanical breakdown of vehicles.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections of Sewerage and Drainage	...	267
Inspections for Nuisances	... ..	178
Informal Notices Served	... ..	30
Drainage Tests and Inspections	... ..	260
Rooms Disinfected	... ..	10
Inspections of Water Supplies	... ..	312
Slaughterhouse Inspections	... ..	160

Shops and Offices—It was not found necessary to take any special action under the provision of the Shops Act, 1934.

Smoke Abatement—It was not found necessary to take any action.

## SECTION D

#### HOUSING INSPECTIONS

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts) ... 836
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1,152



2. (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Reg. 1925 and 1932 ... ..	38
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	82
(c)	Number of Houses in which no action was found necessary ... ..	Nil
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human occupation ... ..	4
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human occupation ...	34

## HOUSING ACTION

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	34
(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action ... ..	Nil

## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING the YEAR PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	Nil
2.	Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—	
(a)	By Owners ... ..	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

## PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	Nil
2.	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(a)	By Owners ... ..	34
(b)	By Local Authority ... ..	Nil



# PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 13 AND 26 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	Nil
2.	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	Nil
3.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Undertaking was given not to let	... ..	4

## PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

1.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	Nil
2.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been made fit	...	Nil

## HOUSING ACT, 1936 — OVERCROWDING

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	(est.)	85
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	(est.)	160
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	(est.)	580
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..		4
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..		19
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...		68
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	... ..		Nil

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD MILK SUPPLY

(a)	Number of Registered Dairies	... ..	5
(b)	Number of Retailers in the area	... ..	9
(c)	Number of supplementary licences issued to dealers or distributors whose dairy is outside the area	...	6
	Cowsheds and Dairies inspected	... ..	5
	Biological Samples taken	... ..	Nil

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed	...	...	...	15
Carcases Inspected:—				
Cows	...	...	...	Nil
Calves	...	...	...	Nil
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	Nil
Pigs	...	...	...	2
Horses	...	...	...	2,911
Tuberculosis only (Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned):—				
Cows	...	...	...	Nil
Pigs	...	...	...	Nil
Percentage of the number of carcasses inspected affected with T.B.	...	...	...	—

NUMBER OF BAKEHOUSES IN THE DISTRICT ... 20

NUMBER OF OFFENSIVE TRADES CARRIED ON IN

THE DISTRICT ... 1

BYELAWS (under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938)

It was not found necessary to take any formal action under the above Byelaws.

## FOOD INSPECTION

The following food was condemned during the year:—

78 tins of various foodstuffs  
150 lbs. of beef  
1 sheep's pluck

## WATER SUPPLY

Number of Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	124
Number of Samples reported Satisfactory	...	...	...	118
Number of Samples reported Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	6
Number of Samples taken for Chemical Examination	...	...	...	15
Number of Samples reported Satisfactory	...	...	...	15
Number of Samples reported Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	Nil

## ADULTERATION

The Council is not a Local Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

# YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Yeovil Rural District Council  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1952.

### HOUSING

There has been very little improvement in the standard of housing accommodation, owing to the steep rise in the cost of works of reconditioning and repairs to existing houses. The inevitable result of the continual rise in building costs is that more houses are falling into such a state of disrepair that they are unfit for habitation. At the same time, the number of new houses built annually is approximately 38 per cent. below the pre-war average.

The average number of permanent houses built annually by the Council and private enterprise for the past 7 years is :—

1946 to 1952 inclusive	Council Houses	Private Enterprise	Total
	52.86	17.10	69.96

Comparative figures for the 10 years before the war are :—

1930 to 1939 inclusive	Council Houses	Private Enterprise	Total
	51.10	62.30	113.40

### 1952 PROGRAMME

#### BY THE COUNCIL

1. Completed during year :—
  - (a) Permanent Traditional Houses ... .. 50
  - (b) Permanent Prefabricated Houses ... .. 4
2. Under Construction 31.12.52 :—
  - (a) Permanent Traditional Houses ... .. 64
  - (b) Permanent Prefabricated Houses ... .. 20

#### BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

1. Completed during year :—
  - (a) Permanent Traditional Houses ... .. 19
  - (b) Conversion of Buildings into Houses ... .. 9
  - (c) Temporary Houses ... .. —
2. Under Construction 31.12.52 :—
  - (a) Permanent Traditional Houses ... .. 26
  - (b) Conversions ... .. 10
  - (c) Temporary Houses ... .. —



## BUILDING LICENSING

There was no significant change in the powers delegated to Local Authorities by the Minister of Works under the Control of Civil Building (Defence Regulation 56A).

Licences were granted as follows :—

(a) New Houses—private enterprise	...	...	38
(b) Conversions and Adaptations	...	...	12
(c) Other Work (repairs, maintenance, etc.)	...	...	35
		Total	85

## PLANS

## A.—BUILDING BYELAWS

Number of Plans approved under the Council's Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	186
Number disapproved	...	...	...	...	...	3
				Total		189

## B.—TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947

Number of Plans submitted and passed to the Planning Authority with the Council's observations	...	...	177
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## WATER SUPPLY

Extensions or Improvements of Supplies :—

Satisfactory progress was made on the construction of the new impounding reservoir at Sutton Bingham and on other works in connection with the Council's comprehensive scheme of water supply.

Work was commenced on the construction of a temporary intake from the stream. From this intake it is anticipated that 250,000 gallons of water per day will be pumped to the Odcombe Reservoir to augment the existing Odcombe and Mudford supplies.

124 samples of water, from public and private supplies, were submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination as follows :—

	<i>Public Supplies</i>		<i>Private Supplies</i>	
Total Number of Samples taken	101		23	
Satisfactory	...	101	17	
Unsatisfactory	...	Nil	6	
		101		23

15 samples of water from public supplies were submitted to the County Laboratory for chemical examination, as follows:—

Total Number of Samples taken	15
Satisfactory ... ..	15
Unsatisfactory ... ..	Nil
	<hr/>
	15

The following is a summary of the present position regarding houses and population supplied with water:—

	<i>Number of Houses</i>	<i>Estimated Population</i>
Public Supply direct into Houses ... ..	4,708	15,301
Public Supply by means of Standpipes ... ..	1,180	3,694
Private Piped Supplies (supplying more than 3 houses) ... ..	99	310
Without a piped supply, or where the supply is for 3, or fewer, houses ... ..	290	940
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,277	20,245
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## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Ilchester—Scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal completed.  
East and West Coker—Work is still proceeding on the new scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal.

Haselbury Plucknett—Work has commenced on the extension of sewer and the construction of new sewage disposal works.

Mudford—A new scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal being prepared for the Village of Mudford.

Martock, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Montacute—A new combined disposal works and trunk sewers for the three parishes is still in course of preparation.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The centralised slaughtering of animals outside the district was continued.

15 licences in respect of private slaughterhouses were renewed during the year.

The number of horses slaughtered at Martock during the year averaged 56 per week.



## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

These are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

There are 20 Bakehouses in the district.

## COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

(a) Number of Registered Dairies	...	...	...	5
(b) Number of Retailers in the area	...	...	...	9
(c) Number of supplementary licences issued to dealers or distributors whose dairy is outside the area	...	...	...	6

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE

The amounts of salvageable materials sold during the year, and the prices realised, are as follows :—

	<i>Amount Sold</i>	<i>Value</i>
Waste Paper	16 tons 13 cwts. 3 qrs. ...	£229 10 0
Metals	39 tons 13 cwts. 1 qr. ...	£118 16 2
Total	...	£348 6 2

## RODENT CONTROL

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Council's rodent operators during the year :—

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	Total
I. No. of Inspections during the year, as a result of :—					
(a) Notification	—	76	—	—	76
(b) Otherwise	66	6,201	381	345	6,993
II. No. of Properties under I. found to be infested :—					
(i) MAJOR	2	—	39	22	63
(ii) MINOR	64	237	—	—	301
III. No. of Infested Properties under I. and II. treated by the Council's Operators	66	237	—	22	325
IV. No. of Informal Notices served.	—	—	12	—	12

It was not found necessary to take any formal action under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act. 1949.

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. WILSON,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector,*

*Inspector of Meat and Other Foods,*

*Fellow of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association.*

*Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.*





